

Command Archives  
Rock Island  
Manuscript Collections

MSS 2006.5  
JOHN DEERE COLLECTION

**Overview of the Collection**

Number: MSS 2006.5  
Title: John Deere Collection  
Creator: Command Historian  
Dates: 1945-1989  
Media: Papers, Clippings, Photographs  
Quantity: .2 c.f.  
Location: A1-2

**Scope of the Collection**

This collection contains materials connecting Deere & Company to the Department of Defense. Much of this deals specifically with the company's purchase of the Des Moines Ordnance Plant in 1947. Also included are materials related to John Deere all-terrain vehicles tested by the military.

**Organization of the Collection**

The collection is divided into three folders. Folder 1 includes legal documents related to the purchase of the Des Moines Ordnance Plant in 1947, arranged chronologically. Folder 2 includes various newspaper and magazine clippings related to the purchase of the Des Moines Ordnance Plant, organized alphabetically by source, and chronologically within each source area. Folder 3 includes materials related to all-terrain vehicles manufactured by Deere and Company, arranged chronologically.

**Administrative Information**

Access: Unclassified items within this collection are open under the rules and regulations of the Command.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to cite the collection name, collection number, and the Command Archives in all footnote and bibliographic references.

Provenance: Unknown

Property Rights: The Command owns the property rights to this collection.

Copyrights: Consideration of all copyrights is the responsibility of the author and publisher.

### **Detailed Description of the Collection**

#### **2006.5.1 – Certificate of Compliance – (A1-2-1)**

Certificate of Compliance related to the sale of the Des Moines Ordnance Plant (August 15, 1945)

#### **2006.5.2 – Quitclaim Deed – (A1-2-1)**

Quitclaim Deed related to the sale of the Des Moines Ordnance Plant (January 31, 1946)

#### **2006.5.3 – Index to Deere & Company’s Offer of Purchase for Des Moines Ordnance Plant – (A1-2-1)**

An index to the purchase offer (June 2, 1947)

#### **2006.5.4 – Purchase of Des Moines Ordnance Plant at Ankeny, Iowa – (A1-2-1)**

Bulletin advising Deere & Co. employees about the acquisition of the Des Moines Ordnance Plant. Factory Bulletin No.548-A. Branch House Bulletin No.1071.

#### **2006.5.5 – A special meeting of the Board of Directors of Deere Manufacturing Co., September 23, 1947 – (A1-2-1)**

Minutes of a Board of Directors meeting finalizing the purchase of the Des Moines Ordnance Plant (September 23, 1947)

#### **2006.5.6 – Various subjects and proposals relative to the adjoining properties of the Iowa State College and the John Deere Des Moines Works – (A1-2-1)**

Minutes of a meeting between B.H. Platt, of Iowa State College, and C.W. Orin, Superintendent of the Mechanical Division, Deere & Co. (December 14, 1949)

#### **2006.5.7 – Release: Des Moines Ordnance Plant – (A1-2-1)**

Official release statement for Des Moines Ordnance Plant lands to Deere & Co. (December 5, 1951)

#### **2006.5.8 – Deed: Des Moines Ordnance Plant – (A1-2-1)**

Deed agreement transferring ownership of the Des Moines Ordnance Plant property to Deere & Co. (September 30, 1947)

#### **2006.5.9 – Davenport Democrat Article – (A1-2-2)**

One clipping, entitled:

“Deere Completes Negotiations with WAA to Buy Ankeny War Plant for \$4,000,000” (June 22, 1947)

**2006.5.10 – Des Moines Register Articles – (A1-2-2)**

Seven clippings, entitled:

- a) “Deere Seeks to Take Over Ankeny Plant” (June 20, 1947)
- b) “Arms Plant’s Sale to Deere is Completed” (October 1, 1947)
- c) “Deere Insurance Set at 9 Millions (March 25, 1954)  
“Ask Reports From Deere” (March 30, 1954)  
“Deere Works Cutback Told” (April 15, 1954)
- d) “Deere Marks 10 Years of D.M. Success” (December 27, 1958)

**2006.5.11 – Eastern Dealer Articles – (A1-2-2)**

Two clippings, entitled:

- a) “Deere and Company Expand” (July 1947)
- b) “Deere Purchases Plant From W.A.A.” (November 1947)

**2006.5.12 – Implement Record Article – (A1-2-2)**

One clipping, entitled:

“Deere’s Newly Acquired Iowa Munitions Plant to Start Implement Manufacture Within Year” (August 1947)

**2006.5.13 – Implement & Tractor Articles – (A1-2-2)**

Two clippings, entitled:

- a) “Deere Buys Ordnance Plant” (July 12, 1947)
- b) “Deere Acquires Ordnance Plant” (August 9, 1947)

**2006.5.14 – Swords to Plowshares: Des Moines Ordnance Plant Sold to John Deere – (A1-2-2)**

Undated internal Deere & Co. publication promoting the purchase of the Des Moines facility.

**2006.5.15 – Moline Dispatch Articles – (A1-2-2)**

Four clippings, entitled:

- a) “Deere & Co. Planning to Buy Huge Ordnance Plant” (June 19, 1947)
- b) “Deere Bid for War Plant is Accepted” (June 20, 1947)
- c) “Deere’s Des Moines Plant Will Be Opened by March” (October 1, 1947)
- d) “Deere Pays \$4,000,000 for Part of Des Moines Ordnance Factory” (October 10, 1947)

**2006.5.16 – Ottumwa Courier Article – (A1-2-2)**

One clipping, entitled:

“Deere Loses on Ankeny Assessment” (September 19, 1956)

**2006.5.17 – Quad City Times Article – (A1-2-2)**

One clipping entitled: “Contract” (May 16, 1957)

**2006.5.18 – Southwest Hardware and Implement Journal Article – (A1-2-2)**

One clipping, entitled:

“Deere & Company Acquires Des Moines Ordnance Plant at Ankeny,  
Iowa” (August 1947)

**2006.5.19 – Settlement of Ordnance Contracts: The Standard Termination Article Assures Equitable Adjustment – (A1-2-3)**

Army Ordnance Report No.2 (August 9, 1943). Categorized as John Deere War History.

**2006.5.20 – AMT600/622 – (A1-2-3)**

Memos relating to the AMT600 and AMT 622, all-terrain vehicles made by Deere & Co., and tested by the military (May 15, 1989 and June 5, 1989)

**2006.5.21 – Photos of John Deere’s All-Terrain Vehicles – (A1-2-3)**

Seven mounted color photographs, containing:

- 1) Two men on vehicle in the dirt
- 2) Man driving through the woods
- 3) Man driving up a hill
- 4) Vehicle in a harness being carried by a helicopter
- 5) Vehicle next to a transport plane
- 6) Vehicle on a transport plane
- 7) Vehicle behind a transport plane